Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, A strong country begins with strong communities in which all citizens play active roles and invest in the success and future of the youth of the United States; and,

Whereas, South Dakota's nine teen court programs exist to prevent youth from further involvement with the court system by providing an alternative option to formal court; and,

Whereas, Teen court programs rely on cooperation between law enforcement, court services, the state's attorney offices, mental health services, the Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the school system for their success; and,

Whereas, Nationwide, more than 110,000 youths volunteered to hear more than 115,000 juvenile cases, and more than 20,000 adults volunteered to facilitate peer justice in teen court programs; and,

Whereas, In 49 states and the District of Columbia, 1,050 youth court programs provide restorative justice for juvenile offenders, resulting in effective crime prevention, early intervention and education for all youth participants, and enhanced public safety throughout the United States; and,

Whereas, A fundamental correlation exists between youth service and the lifelong adult commitment to and involvement in one's community. Participation in teen court programs encourages youth court members to become valuable members of their communities; and,

Whereas, The South Dakota Teen Court Association and the National Association of Youth Courts have declared the month of September as Teen Court Month:

Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim September 2011 as

TEEN COURT MONTH

in South Dakota, and I call upon citizens to find ways to give of their time, energy, and talents to serve our state's and nation's teen courts.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of August in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eleven.

Dennis Daugaard

Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:

Jason M. Gant

Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State